

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-9 are pending in the above-identified application.

Claims 1 was objected to for informality. This informality has been corrected.

Claims 2 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being indefinite. Claim 2 has been amended to recite, "...the at least one of the first and the second flow laminators..." Claim 5 has been amended to recite, "...made into a shape of a cotton ball."

Claims 1 and 6-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Weick et al. Claim 1 is amended to include,

... a pair of (a) a first gas introducing part for introducing gas into the laser-introducing duct, and (b) a first flow laminator regulating a first flow of the gas so that **the first flow of the gas is a laminar flow on the mirror...**

... a pair of (a) a second gas introducing part for introducing the gas into the light path duct, and (b) a second flow laminator regulating a second flow of the gas, so that **the second flow of the gas is a laminar flow on the condensing lens.**

Basis for these amendments may be found in the specification, for example at page 6, lines 23-25 and page 7, lines 1-2. With regard to claim 1, Weick et al. does not disclose or suggest a first gas introducing part and a first flow laminator "...regulating a first flow of the gas so that **the first flow of the gas is a laminar flow on the mirror...**" Further, Weick et al. does not disclose or suggest a second gas introducing part and a second flow laminator "...regulating a second flow of the gas, so that **the second flow of the gas is a laminar flow on the condensing lens...**"

Weick et al. includes a molecular sieve 20. The Examiner argues that the molecular sieve 20 is a flow laminator. (Office Action, page 3). However, Weick et al. does not disclose that the molecular sieve 20 is "...regulating a first flow of the gas so that **the first flow of the gas is a laminar flow on the mirror...**" Further, Weick et al. does not disclose that the molecular sieve 20 is "...regulating a second flow of the gas, so that **the second flow of the gas is a laminar flow on the condensing lens...**" In fact, Weick et al. does not disclose a laminar flow of any kind. Rather, the sieve 20 is connected on the output side of the dryer 19

to adjust the CO₂ content. (Col. 4, lines 37-39). The sieve 20 reduces the CO₂ concentration to a value under 300 ppm by filtering out the CO₂ molecules from the stream of raw air. (Col. 4, lines 37-42).

In contrast, Applicants' exemplary embodiment includes flow laminators 15A and 15B and gas introducing parts 14A and 14B at the flow laminators 15A and 15B that produce a laminar flow of air. (Page 6, lines 13-17 and Fig. 1). The gas introducing parts 14A and 14B and flow laminators 15A and 15B are placed close to mirror 4 and lens 11, respectively. (Page 6, lines 13-15 and Fig. 1). The flow laminators 15A and 15B produce a laminar flow of air on the mirror 4 and lens 11. (Page 6, lines 26 to page 7, lines 11). Thus, the first flow laminator 15A and gas introducing part 14A regulate "...a first flow of the gas so that **the first flow of the gas is a laminar flow on the mirror...**" .". Further, the second flow laminator 15B and gas introducing part 14B regulate "...a second flow of the gas, so that **the second flow of the gas is a laminar flow on the condensing lens...**" .". Applicants' claimed features are advantageous over the prior art because mirror 4 and lens 11 are sufficiently protected from impurities.

Thus, claim 1 is allowable over the art of record. Claims 6-9 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 6-9 are allowable over the art of record.

Claims 2-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Weick et al. and Ventriglio. Claims 2-5 are allowable in view of their dependency upon an allowable claim.

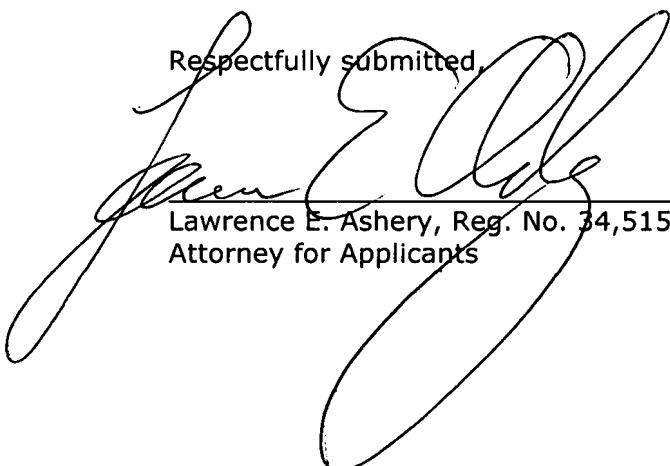
New claims 10 and 11 have been added. Basis for these claims may be found in original claim 1.

Appln. No.: 10/553,084
Amendment Dated: July 12, 2007
Reply to Office Action of: April 27, 2007

MAT-8747US

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515
Attorney for Applicants

LEA/ds

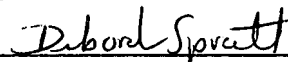
Dated: July 12, 2007

P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

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Deborah Spratt



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